

**COMPLETE LISTING OF THE CLAIMS**

1. (Currently Amended) A container and lid assembly comprising:  
a base;  
a container body having a generally tapered wall structure extending upwardly from the base defining a compartment therein;  
a lid having a central portion and a flexible peripheral portion that is collapsibly deformable as the lid is moved along a predetermined range within the compartment toward the base, wherein the peripheral portion includes an outer portion having an upper free end abutting an inner surface of the wall structure and the central portion includes a downwardly extending portion ~~having a lower end connected to a lower end of~~ connected to the outer portion and defining a gap between the downwardly extending portion and the outer portion.
2. (Previously Presented) The container and lid assembly of claim 1 wherein the peripheral portion at least partially circumscribes the central portion of the lid.
3. (Previously Presented) The container and lid assembly of claim 2 wherein the outer portion is moved toward the central portion as the lid is moved toward the base.
4. (Previously Presented) The container and lid assembly of claim 3 further including a hinge portion between the downwardly extending portion and the central portion.
5. (Original) The container and lid assembly of claim 4 wherein the hinge portion includes a portion of reduced thickness.
6. (Original) The container and lid assembly of claim 2 further including a handle formed in the central portion.
7. (Cancelled)

8. (Previously Presented) The container and lid assembly of claim 1 wherein the downwardly extending portion further includes an upper surface which would abut a base of a like container stacked thereon to urge the free end of the outer portion outwardly against the inner surface of the wall structure.

9-16. (Cancelled)

17. (Currently Amended) A container and lid assembly comprising:

a base;

a container body having a container wall extending upwardly and outwardly from the base to define a compartment therein;

a lid having a central portion and an integrally molded flexible portion, the flexible portion including an outer portion having an upper free end abutting an inner surface of the container wall, the outer portion of the flexible portion being movable toward the central portion as the lid is moved toward the base in the compartment, a hinge portion connecting the flexible portion to the central portion, the hinge portion having an upper end on which a similar container would rest when stacked thereby urging the upper free end of the outer portion against the container wall, the hinge portion above a gap between the outer portion and the central portion.

18. (Previously Presented) The container and lid assembly of claim 17 wherein the outer portion of the flexible portion is urged toward the inner surface of the container wall.

19. (Original) The container and lid assembly of claim 17 further including a like container stacked on the lid and abutting the flexible portion to urge the outer portion against the inner surface of the container wall.

20. (Original) The container and lid assembly of claim 17 wherein the central portion further includes a handle.

21. (Previously Presented) The container and lid assembly of claim 19 wherein the central portion includes a downwardly extending portion connected to the flexible portion.
22. (Cancelled)
23. (Previously Presented) The container and lid assembly of claim 21 wherein the flexible portion includes a hinge portion, the like container resting on the hinge portion to urge the outer portion against the inner surface of the container wall.
24. (New) The container and lid assembly of claim 1 wherein the downwardly extending portion has an upwardly directed portion connected to the outer portion.
25. (New) The container and lid assembly of claim 1 wherein the gap is defined between a connection between the downwardly extending portion and the outer portion.
26. (New) The container and lid assembly of claim 25 wherein the gap is reduced as the lid is urged downwardly into the container.
27. (New) A container and lid assembly comprising:  
a generally polygonal base;  
a container body having a plurality of container walls extending upwardly and outwardly from the base to define a compartment therein; and  
a lid having a central portion and an integrally molded flexible portion, the flexible portion including an outer portion abutting an inner surface of at least one of the container walls, the outer portion of the flexible portion being movable toward the central portion as the lid is moved toward the base in the compartment, a hinge portion connecting the flexible portion to the central portion.

28. (New) The container and lid assembly of claim 27 wherein the outer portion of the flexible portion has an upper free end abutting the inner surface of the at least one container wall.

29. (New) The container and lid assembly of claim 28 wherein the hinge portion has an upper end on which a similar container would rest when stacked thereby urging the upper free end of the outer portion against the at least one container wall.